

MEDIA INVITATION

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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TRUE-LIFE DRAMA ILLUSTRATES IMPORTANCE OF CPR/AED TRAINING

Date: Friday, May 16

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Delaware Emergency Operations Center, Smyrna

The Delaware State Fire School and Delaware Emergency Management Agency invite you to attend an informative recognition event at 9 a.m., Friday, May 16, at the Delaware Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Fire School instructors who employed life-saving measures to a DEMA staff member will be honored, and representatives of the Fire School, the American Heart Association and the Delaware Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are included in those in attendance.

The dramatic event leading to the recognition occurred on March 4 as the Delaware State Fire School held a cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automated external defibrillation (CPR/AED) class for employees of DEMA at the Emergency Operations Center in Smyrna. During the class, a DEMA staff member, who was a student in the class, went into full cardiac arrest.

The three instructors teaching the class quickly responded with life saving measures and applied the AED that is permanently located in the EOC dining room. The DEMA staff member regained pulse and was breathing on his own by the time Kent County Paramedics arrived on scene minutes later. Those who witnessed the event and family members of the survivor said that the instructors, Jeff Evans, Jack Wilson, and Denise Dill, did an outstanding job.

Please schedule a visit to the state EOC at 9 a.m., May 16, to recognize the three instructors and learn more about CPR/AED training. Joining the Delaware State Fire School, the American Heart Association and the Delaware Office of EMS will be representatives of DEMA, the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission and the family of the survivor. Please respond to this invitation by Wednesday, May 14; contact Rosanne Pack, phone 270-9143 or page 247-0607, or Sandy Hypes, 739-4773 or 242-0703.

The role of the media in supporting the state's safety efforts and informing the public is very important and much appreciated.

For those who are interested, a tour of DEMA will follow the recognition.